



N.C. Arts Council Artist Fellowship Program Frequently Asked Questions

What is a fellowship?

Fellowships are awards of merit to individual artists to recognize excellence, as evidenced in a recent body of work. These unrestricted \$10,000 grants are intended to allow artists to continue developing their work by providing them with the time, equipment, or other support necessary to practice their art.

How often are fellowships offered?

Fellowships are offered on alternating years in eight discipline categories. Visual artists, craft artists, film/video artists, and choreographers apply one year; writers, songwriters, composers, playwrights, and screenwriters apply the next year. The next fellowship deadline for choreographers, craft artists, visual artists, and film/video artists is November 2, 2015; writers, songwriters, composers, playwrights, and screenwriters may apply November 1, 2016.

Where can I get an application?

Guidelines and access to applications for the current year deadline are available online at www.ncarts.org after September 1. Artists must submit applications using the Arts Grants Online system. Applications must be submitted online by 11:59 p.m. on the deadline date.

Who can apply? What are the eligibility requirements for the fellowship grant?

Artists who receive a fellowship award must sign a contract certifying that they are

- at least 18 years old and are U.S. citizens or holders of permanent resident alien status
- have been year-round residents of North Carolina for at least the year immediately prior to the application date
- will remain a North Carolina resident during the grant period and be physically present in the state for the majority of the grant period
- were not enrolled at the time of application and will not pursue academic or professional degrees during the grant period

Artists who have won a fellowship during the past five cycles may not apply. Current fellowship panelists in the discipline and permanent staff and board members of the N.C. Arts Council are also ineligible. Artists cannot be awarded a fellowship and a residency center grant in the same year.

Are artists who are temporarily living out of state eligible? What about artists who were born in North Carolina but live elsewhere?

Artists who have been out of state temporarily due to a short-term residency or work assignment, teaching appointment or sabbatical, or similar reason may be eligible, provided they established residency in North Carolina at least a year prior to application, have retained their North Carolina residency status, and have not been gone from the state more than six months during the period. Artists with residency status questions should call the staff prior to application to discuss the particulars of their situation.

Artists who were born in North Carolina but have established residency in another state or country will not meet the contractual requirements of the award.

Can you apply if you work collaboratively with another artist? How do you go about it?

Artists applying as a team are treated as a single artist in terms of the number of work samples allowed. It is generally recommended that teams present collaborative work in their work samples; however, if the collaboration is only proposed or not yet documented, members of a team can submit individual work samples, as long as they fall within the prescribed limits. Members of an artist team may not also apply individually in the same cycle. All members of a team must meet the eligibility requirements of the grant.

How does the Arts Council select its fellowship recipients?

Fellowship recipients are selected by panels of artists and arts professionals with expertise in the discipline under review. Panelists review work samples submitted by applicants and use artistic merit as their primary measure in determining award winners. Panelists also consider the applicant's narrative in making their final recommendations.

How are panelists selected?

We try to have the panels represent the range of work and diversity of artists in the applicant pool. For example in visual arts, a typical panel might have someone from the fine arts disciplines (painting, sculpture, printmaking, etc.), someone with expertise in two-dimensional work, another with a focus on three-dimensional work, and a representative conversant with more experimental forms of artmaking. We strive to balance our panels in other ways as well, especially with regard to racial, gender, and geographic diversity. The staff consults with colleagues with discipline expertise within the state and from other state agencies and asks for recommendations from the field to develop a roster of potential panelists. Panelists change every cycle to ensure that fresh points of view are incorporated into the process. Panels generally include two out-of-state panelists and one in-state panelist.

How is the review process conducted?

For all review processes, the first round is conducted remotely, with each panelist assessing individually the work samples submitted over a period of several weeks to two months, depending on the number of submissions. They rate the work on its artistic merit and their scores are combined to determine which artists advance to the finalist round. Panelists then consider the narratives and résumés of the shortlisted artists prior to convening to discuss the finalists. At the meeting, panelists discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the applications until they arrive at a consensus for the awards. Alternates are also selected, in case one or more of the artists is unable to accept the grant, or funds become available to support additional recipients.

What is the staff's role in the panel process?

The staff's role is to ensure that the process runs smoothly and fairly. The staff does not comment on applications or in any way attempt to influence the panel's decisions. Even if staff members have seen work by or know an artist under consideration, they do not typically offer information unless it is included in the application. In addition to maintaining impartiality as facilitators, the staff also monitors potential conflicts-of-interest on the part of panelists. Panelists must abstain from all voting related to any applicant with whom they have a conflict-of-interest and must leave the room during discussions of that applicant.

Does the Arts Council have quotas for media, race, gender, or geography in its fellowship distribution? Does the panel consider financial need when reviewing applications?

There are no quotas in the selection of fellowship recipients. The Arts Council seeks diversity and balance in the panels it convenes to review the applications, but artistic merit is the determining criterion for awards. Financial need is not a criterion.